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# SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

*c/o California Department of Water Resources*  
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Red Bluff, Ca. 96080



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## SRCA NOTES

November, 2000

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### OCTOBER 19 TAC MEETING

The meeting opened with a discussion on the Inner River Zone in Reach 3 led by Koll Buer(DWR). Koll made available copies of DWR's draft report on Reach 3 as well as maps which pertained to the study. Options for Reach 4 will be discussed at the next meeting.

A discussion was opened about "Hard Points" and whether to establish a sub-committee to form a definition of "Hard Points" or continue in current forum. It was decided that Les Heringer(M&T) and Paul Ward(CDFG) would present an overview at the next meeting on what has happened to date in previous sub-committee meetings.

Les also reported on the status of the M&T/Llano Seco pumping plant and City of Chico outfall, both of which are being threatened by the encroachment of a large gravel bar. Les stated that there would be a meeting the following week with the City of Chico and the COE to discuss options.

In his review of planning activities, the Manager reported on the work being done with the COE for flood protection of Hamilton City and an update on Bloody Island.

### NOVEMBER 16 TAC MEETING

Stacy Cepello(DWR) led the discussion on IRZ definition for Reach #4. The TAC agreed to have Stacy draft a definition to take to the Board. All landowners within that reach will be notified concerning a meeting to discuss this issue. The meeting will probably be in January.

Les Heringer and Paul Ward(CDFG) reviewed the definition process of "Hard Points" done earlier through the Riparian Habitat Committee. There was full agreement that the Oct, 1999 version was considered acceptable. The Committee recommended that this language be taken to the Board to begin the process of amending the Handbook. Les requested that the other proposed modification in the "Issues to be Resolved Section" of the Handbook language be placed on the agenda for the Feb. TAC meeting..

### NOVEMBER 2 SRCA BOARD MEETING

The Chairman announced that after a full selection process and interviews, Burt Bundy had been named as Manager of the Sacramento River Conservation Area. Burt expressed his appreciation to the Board and discussed the status of the grant funding for the Program. He also reported on various planning efforts and activities, including Hamilton City, which is being considered as a COE Comprehensive Study "Initial Project", and Woodson Bridge.

Les Heringer reported on a meeting held recently with the City of Chico and other affected parties to discuss the gravel bar intrusion at the M&T/Llano Seco pumps and Chico outfall. The Board directed staff to draft a letter to Patrick Wright asking for funding through CALFED and the Ecosystem Round Table to do some immediate work on the gravel bar, and to utilize current scientific studies to determine a long term solution.

John Merz expressed the concerns of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust as regards to cost share – state, federal and local.

Dan Keppen reported on the TAC meeting. The IRZ definition options within Reach 4 were discussed. It was agreed that all landowners within each reach involved will be invited to a discussion of the IRZ. There was a brief discussion of "Hard Points".

Jim Bailey of the DWR Flood Center gave an overview of local, state and federal agency's responsibilities during flood emergency situations. He provided the access number for **River Forecasts—800-952-5530**

Ramon Vega, Manager of the Sacramento River Wildlife Refuge, reported on several activities and agreed to keep the Board posted as things progressed.



## **SRCA NOTES UPDATE**

In an earlier newsletter, we asked about some willow plantings at various river sandbar locations. Through some intense investigative work by members of the Dept. of Fish and Game, the culprits have been identified---Beavers! Actually, the willows weren't planted and even though beavers are noted for their engineering prowess, they don't qualify as agronomists. They just are very good at pruning the tops of sprouting willows!

Another question of the same type came up at a past Board meeting—Who is placing pink or red flags on various elderberry bushes in the area? Again, through great investigative work, the question has been answered---the contractors doing the underground installation of fiber optics cable must identify any habitat of endangered species in the corridor where they are working. Unfortunately, they have not always notified landowners of their activities. Contact your local County Public Works office if you have a question about this work.

## **SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA BOARD MEETINGS**

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Board will meet on Dec. 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the Willows City Hall, Willows.

The January meeting has been scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Enloe Center in Chico.

The next TAC meeting will be held on January 11 at the Willows City Hall, Willows at 10:00 a.m.



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